

From: [Phillips, Christine M CDR, XO NR CHINFO HQ, 86279](#)
To: (b) (6) CHINFO, OI-3; (b) (6) CHINFO, OI-2
Cc: [Chinfo Duty Officer](#); (b) (6); (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Query regarding Sean Spicer's PAO training
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 17:49:51

All,

(b) (6) found that the Commandant asked for the statement to use in RTQ after a PAO posted the following query in a DINFOS alum forum on Facebook. "Sean Spicer was a Navy PAO. Did he attend DINFOS? Can't seem to find that info online. Thanks!"

After the query, the comments take the conversation into the realm of the unhelpful until a DINFOS instructor commented that our registrar office did not show record of CDR Spicer completing any DINFOS courses. A follow up question had the instructor respond that further information would need to be requested via an RFI to his staff.

In a closed group of public affairs people, or in RTQ offline, the statement originally proposed is pretty close to solid, but I'd tweak it slightly, as follows:

(b) (5) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I also can help with anything else that pops up this week. I'm at CHINFO through Friday.

Thanks!

V/r,
CMP

-----Original Message-----

From: Phillips, Christine M CDR, XO NR CHINFO HQ, 86279
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 3:36 PM
To: (b) (6) CHINFO, OI-3; (b) (6) CHINFO, OI-2
Cc: Chinfo Duty Officer; (b) (6); (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Query regarding Sean Spicer's PAO training

All,

I took everyone off the back-and-forth, but here's where we are now.

(b) (6) is chasing down more information about the queries. The request for a statement originated with the Commandant, and it was to respond to comments about CDR Spicer's DINFOS training on social media. I asked

(b) (6) to find out which platforms are getting the queries, whether they're on DINFOS pages or simply tag DINFOS in other places, and who they're coming from. I also asked whether DINFOS typically responds when they're tagged in posts that include erroneous info (I asked that to determine what "typical" looks like so we don't create a problem by handling this situation differently.)

My initial thought is that it's better not to respond to these comments, but that could change depending on what (b) (6) finds out.

For everyone's SA, CDR Spicer came in right behind me. At that time, many of us who came into the reserves as Direct Commission Officers were NOT going to DINFOS. We didn't have the distance course at that time, and quotas in the two-week course were really tough to get, so most of us who were working in public relations or another directly related field were waived.

However, for the Navy at least, it is NOT common these days for people to get a waiver. I'm sure there are exceptions, but generally speaking, it's required to make O-4. Also, at least on the reserve side, DINFOS is separate from being assigned an occupational specialty -- our DCOs are commissioned as public affairs officers, and they typically attend DINFOS in their second year.

More after I hear back from (b) (6).

Thanks!

V/r,
(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CHINFO, OI-3
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 1:17 PM
To: (b) (6) CHINFO, OI-2
Cc: Chinfo Duty Officer: (b) (6) Phillips, Christine M CDR, XO NR CHINFO HQ, 86279;
Fields, (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Query regarding Sean Spicer's PAO training

Thanks (b) (6). I've cc'd CDR Phillips and (b) (6) to help us out on this one. May end up having to send this one to White House as well.

V/r,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
Navy Office of Information (CHINFO)
CHINFO News Desk
1200 Navy Pentagon, (b) (6)
Washington, D.C. 20350-1200
Office: (703) 697-5342
Cell: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CHINFO, OI-2

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 1:09 PM
To: (b) (6) CHINFO, OI-3
Cc: Chinfo Duty Officer; (b) (6)
Subject: FW: Query regarding Sean Spicer's PAO training

(b) (6),

Please see below from DINFOS. (b) (6) is CC'd here.

Very respectfully,

(b) (6)
(b) (6)
U.S. Navy
1200 Navy Pentagon, Rm (b) (6)
Washington, DC 20350-1200
Office (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) USAF DMA DINFOS (US) [(b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:15 PM
To: (b) (6) CHINFO, OI-2
Subject: Query regarding Sean Spicer's PAO training

(b) (6), we have had rumors and queries regarding Sean Spicer's attending DINFOS. Would you be able to vet a response, or point me to the appropriate person who could?

Suggested:

(b) (5)

We could adjust the message to be more complete with attribution to stem the query from going to someone else after but figured it was best to make contact with you to see if there is a response generated already.

I believe the query is a result of this Military Times article quoted on
wiki: <http://www.militarytimes.com/articles/spicer-press-secretary-navy-trump>

Warm regards,
(b) (6), USAF
(b) (6)
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(b) (6)